

# NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
318 South Sixth Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Tel: 217/492-4450

RODGER A. HEATON  
U.S. ATTORNEY  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



For Immediate Release  
August 4, 2006

Contact: Gregory K. Harris  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
(217) 492-4450

## **Project Safe Neighborhoods: Springfield Man Sentenced for Armed Robbery of National City Bank**

Springfield, IL- The United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Rodger A. Heaton, announced that Shawn William Bland, age 25, of 1523 East Jackson Street, Springfield, Illinois, was sentenced today to 147 months in federal prison for the March 2005 armed robbery of a Springfield bank. U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott sentenced Bland to 63 months in prison for the armed bank robbery of National City Bank, at 802 South 11<sup>th</sup> Street, on March 24, 2005. In addition to the 63 month sentence, Bland was sentenced to serve a consecutive term of 84 months in prison for carrying and using a firearm during a crime of violence. Bland was also ordered to pay restitution to the bank.

Bland was convicted following a jury trial in December 2005. Evidence presented by the government at trial showed that Bland entered the bank on March 24, 2005, pointed a handgun at bank employees, and took approximately \$4,575. At the time of the robbery, Bland was on parole from the Illinois Department of Corrections for armed robbery and had been released from prison in September 2004.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Springfield Police Department, and the Illinois State Police; the case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gregory K. Harris and Patrick J. Chesley under Project Safe Neighborhoods.

###